**YARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

In Attendance:

Cllrs M.Tomkinson (Chair), A. Billington (Vice-Chair), S Horner (Co-Vice-Chair), L Myhill, T Long, C Ford, D Barnes, K Thomson

Cllr C Brown

Members of the public: 1

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs S Vining, Y Levine & I Chubb

1. Declarations of Interest

None Declared

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

All agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the last meeting on 20th November and they were signed by Cllr M. Tomkinson.

1. Reports
2. County Councillor

No report received

1. District Councillor

Cllr Brown reported that The Scrutiny Committee has a one item agenda regarding SWW coming up in February with the Director of SWW in attendance.

There has been negative feedback on the winter car parking charges of £2.00 all day as this had led to permit holders being unable to find a parking space. Not sure this reduction in charges is helping the local economy as commuters are filling up the spaces. It has been suggested it should be for 4 hours at a time. A parking workshop is scheduled for Wednesday 21st February at 3pm and Cllr Brown would be interested to receive any comments.

EDDC are joining forces with land registry to enable searches to be completed within days instead of weeks. This should speed up the home buying process.

1. Police

No report received and member at the meeting despite emails sent by the clerk.

1. Yarcombe Community Land Trust

This is now at the final stage. The process has been helped by Cassandra Harrison and Yehudi Levine. EDDC should grant planning permission soon.

There is a great need for affordable housing and no other location should experience the same problem as Yarcombe Community Land Trust.

1. Jubilee Hall

AV system is back in its original location. Vinyl has been laid in the alcove and in the entrance. They are still awaiting a date for the replacement of the windows and doors at the front of the hall.

1. Reports from Individual Councillors

**Councillor Ford** –Nothing on Footpaths but Cllr Tomkinson reported that the sign for footpath 27 was in the hedge and needed replacing. She will contact Phil Holness.

**Councillor Barnes** – Sand bags and salt are available for use on the highways. There are still large amounts of potholes that need addressing. Some have been repaired in Beacon Lane but there are more to be done. The highways have done some work on draining water from the main road but again more work is required.

**Councillor Billington** - Community speed watch group are hoping to timetable some sessions shortly due to improved weather conditions. He is going to seek permission for speed camera signs. He asked about funding for Vehicle Activated signs and Cllt Tomkinson is going to approach terrier racing to see if they will allocate any funds to this project.

**Councillor Horner**- There is still a problem with the footbridge at Rag Lane. When he inspected this, he found the damage which Dave Ashford had said was from animals is not but is caused by human intervention. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Following a FOI request there are still problems with Rag Lane. A local resident has complained to their MP. DCC said nothing can be done unless the Parish Council are on their side. There appears to be no progress since the meeting with Highways on 27th July 2023. This will be discussed further at the next meeting

1. Parish Clerk Report

This had been circulated to all councillors detailing various emails sent but nothing extra to report.

1. CIL and S106 Funds

Ed Freeman sent an email saying there was no CIL liability on Ley Farm. This is being disputed by the council. Cllr Horner will draft an email regarding this and ask for confirmation about spending time limits on CIL and S106 funds. Cllr Tomkinson will begin the process of setting up a steering group to decide how S106 funds can be spent. These can only be spent on open spaces.

1. Bob Nelson attendance at meeting

This was discussed at length and Cllr Tomkinson has sent a link to Blackdown Hills National Landscape which the clerk will forward to all councillors. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

1. The year ahead, review of the neighbourhood plan and anything else.

Cllr Myhill is reviewing the neighbour hood plan. Cllr Tomkinson will send a link to the neighbourhood plan for all councillors to read before the next meeting. He will then advise on what amendments can be made without outside approval.

Cllr Tomkinson is also looking into the Highway Warden roll and will advise once more information is available.

1. Finance
2. No comments or questions.
3. All Payments were ratified.
4. Yonder Marsh Farm - Still waiting to hear assume Cllr Horner will include in email.
5. Precept for 2024/25

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th January 2024 the expenditure for the present financial year was discussed at length in order to calculate the amount of income from the Precept (the small proportion of Council Tax which funds the Parish Council) that would be required from April 2024. Due to the cost of living it was decided to use some of our reserves to fund this expenditure instead of increasing the precept above inflation.

1. Planning

Cllr Tomkinson praised Cllr Long regarding his comments on Carpenters.

Cllr Long advised the following:

Blackhayes planning had been approved with conditions regarding trees.

Littledown Farm will be built with local flint stone for the walls of the dwelling.

Hares Farm had no comments submitted by Parish Council.

1. Public Session

The meeting opened to the public.

A member of the public queried about Crawley Corner whether there was any development. Cllr Tomkinson agreed to contact the Highways for current information.

They also queried about Old Taunton Road regarding ditches and potholes. Cllr Tomkinson advised them to report on the website as the more complaints meant action was more likely to be taken.

The meeting closed at 9:50pm, the next meeting is to be held on Monday 5th February.

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